

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAN JO 01349 281738Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----014408 281756Z /46

O 281710Z MAR 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0609
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAN JOSE 1349
EXDIS
FOR ARA, AMBASSADOR TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, MOPS, CU, UR, VE, BR, CS
SUBJECT: BRIEFINGS OF SELECTED LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS ON CUBAN
INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 075151

1. CALLED ON FONMIN FACIO AFTERNOON OF MARCH 27 TO CONSULT
ON CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA AND TO SOLICIT HIS VIEWS
AND REACTIONS. FACIO IS GENERALLY WELL INFORMED ON CUBAN
ROLE IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA AND QUICKLY NOTED THAT IN BOTH
CASES CUBAN INVOLVEMENT CONSTITUTED A SOVIET-INSPIRED
OBSTACLE TO PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS. HE ALSO
AGREED THAT SHOULD CUBANS IN MOZAMBIQUE BECOME ACTIVELY
INVOLVED IN RHODESIA PROSPECTS FOR PEACE THERE WOULD BE
DAMAGED SEVERELY. ALTHOUGH FACIO WAS AWARE THAT
CUBANS WERE PRESENT ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA, HE WAS SURPRISED
TO LEARN OF THE MAGNITUDE OF TOTAL PERSONNEL AND NUMBER OF
COUNTRIES IN AFRICA IN WHICH THEY ARE INVOLVED.

2. FACIO'S EXPRESSION OF VIEWS ON CUBAN MOTIVES IN
AFRICAN INTERVENTION DIFFERED SOMEWHAT FROM THOSE PRE-
VIOUSLY EXPOUNDED BY PRESIDENT ODUBER. ODUBER HAS RE-
PEATEDLY INDICATED THAT HE REGARDS CUBAN ACTIONS IN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SAN JO 01349 281738Z

AFRICA AS DESIGNED TO A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE TO ENHANCE
CUBA'S POLITICAL APPEAL TO AFRICAN-ORIGIN POPULATIONS OF THE
CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL AMERICA, AND EAST COAST OF SOUTH
AMERICA. FACIO, IN ADDITION TO ACKNOWLEDGING THE EFFECT OF
ECONOMIC PRESSURES BY THE SOVIET UNION, BELIEVES CASTRO HAS
SEIZED UPON THE AFRICAN ARENA TO GET HIMSELF BACK INTO THE INTER-
NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT.

HE SAID CUBAN OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE HAS HAD CONTACT SEE ABSOLUTELY NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THEIR OWN ACTIONS IN ANGOLA, ETHIOPIA, AND ELSEWHERE, AND THEIR CRITICISM OF OTHERS FOR ALLEGED ACTS OF INTERVENTION.

HE SAID THAT WHILE MOST CUBANS MAY BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE ACTING OUT OF THEIR OWN DEEP SENSE OF IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENT MORE THAN AS INSTRUMENTS OF SOVIET POLICY IN AFRICA, HE BELIEVES, AND SO STATED IN A TV INTERVIEW IN MIAMI LAST WEEK, THAT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT WAS BASICALLY PROVIDING A MERCENARY FORCE IN AFRICA, WITH THE SOVIETS PAYING THE BILLS.

3. FACIO MAINTAINS THAT CUBA IS PAYING A POLITICAL PRICE IN LATIN AMERICA FOR ITS INTERVENTIONISM IN AFRICA. HE RECALLED THAT IN EARLY AND MID-1975 COSTA RICA AND SEVERAL OTHER LATIN NATIONS HAD WANTED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH CUBA QUICKLY, BUT STOPPED MOVING APPRECIABLY TOWARD NORMALIZATION WHEN CUBA INTERVENED IN THE ANGOLAN CIVIL WAR. HE SAID THAT IF CUBA HAD NOT INTERVENED IN ANGOLA AND ELSEWHERE, COSTA RICA AND OTHERS WOULD HAVE RESUMED FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA SOME TIME AGO. FACIO WAS CATEGORICAL IN STATING THAT THE GOCR HAD REFRAINED FROM UPGRADING RELATIONS EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR THIS REASON ALONE. (COMMENT: MOST LOCAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE ELECTION HERE MAY HAVE BEEN A MORE PERSUASIVE FACTOR.)

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SAN JO 01349 281738Z

4. RECENT CUBAN INTERVENTIONISM IN AFRICA HAD RESUSCITATED FEARS OF CUBAN INTERVENTION IN THE AMERICAS JUST AT THE TIME WHEN SUCH FEARS ALMOST HAD DISAPPEARED, ACCORDING TO FACIO. ALTHOUGH FACIO SEES NO PRESENT INDICATION THAT CUBANS INTEND TO BECOME MILITARILY INVOLVED IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE AND SO CHALLENGE THE U.S. DIRECTLY AND IMMEDIATELY, HE IS CONCERNED THAT CUBANS NOW HAVE THE MILITARY POWER AND LOGISTICAL CAPABILITY TO BECOME INVOLVED. IN THIS CONNECTION HE THOUGHT THAT IF BELIZE WERE MISHANDLED, CUBA IN THIS ONE CASE COULD SEND TROOPS UNDER THE PRETEXT OF HELPING BELIZE FIGHT A WAR OF NATIONAL LIBERATION.

5. FACIO SAID HE HAS NOW ENGAGED IN PREPARATION OF FINAL VOLUME OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF COSTA RICAN FOREIGN POLICY UNDER ODUBER. HE INTENDS TO DWELL ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH CUBA AND TO SPELL OUT THAT CUBA'S AFRICAN ROLE HAS PREVENTED NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONNECTION HE REQUESTED PUBLISHED MATERIAL ON CUBA'S AFRICAN ROLE AND WE WILL SUPPLY HIM WHAT IS AVAILABLE.
WEISSMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. HART, S/S-O

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANJO01349
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780134-1057
Format: TEL
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780318/aaaaaoxq.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c53a81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 75151
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3181961
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFINGS OF SELECTED LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS ON CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA
TAGS: PINR, MOPS, CU, UR, VE, BR, CS, XA
To: STATE CARACAS
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c53a81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014